


REVOLUTION IN ROJAVA

A feminist revolution in the heart of the Middle East



 Occupied by Turkish Army & Turkish-backed Islamist Rebel Groups (Sources: Make Rojava Green Again, 2019; Aljazeera.com, March 2019)

Kurdistan is divided between the modern states of Turkey, Syria, Iraq, and Iran. **Rojava**, a majority Kurdish part of northeastern Syria, became an autonomous region run by a Self-Administration rather than a state in July 2012, following the outbreak of the Syrian Civil War. Encompassing one third of Syria, the **Self-Administration of North and East Syria (NES)** currently consists of seven administrative districts or “cantons”. The Syrian Democratic Forces, a coalition of local forces led by mostly Kurdish YPG and women-only YPJ units, defeated ISIS in March 2019 with the help of an international coalition, led by the US. The NES has no internationally recognized status and is under constant threat of further invasion by Turkey and subjugation by the Assad regime, which has declared its opposition to a federal arrangement permitting local self-rule.

5-6M people live in Rojava, representing a diverse variety of ethnicities including Armenians, Arabs, Assyrians, Chechens, Kurds, and Turkmen, whose religions span Sunni Islam, Alevism, Christianity, and Yazidism.

350K of Afrin’s residents were displaced by the Turkish military and jihadist allies in January 2018. Those remaining are subjected to looting, torture, murder, and kidnapping for extortion by Syrian opposition groups.

2019 marked the defeat of ISIS and capture of thousands of ISIS members by the YPG/YPJ, who do not have the resources to guard them and want help to repatriate or bring them to trial.

Women’s liberation

Rojava is founded on the principle that there can be no true equality without gender equality, thus creating a new social paradigm. Institutions have female and male co-chairs and require 40% women members, while women’s communes have veto power over decisions affecting women.

Social ecology

Ecology and sustainability are principles of the Rojava economy; large areas previously used for grain monoculture are being reforested, while international and local people are working together to preserve the water supply and develop alternatives to fossil fuel.

Direct democracy

Citizens participate actively in all public decision-making and management, in a system of democratic confederalism beginning with delegates elected by neighborhood communes. Ethnic and religious discrimination is against the law and all groups have political representation.

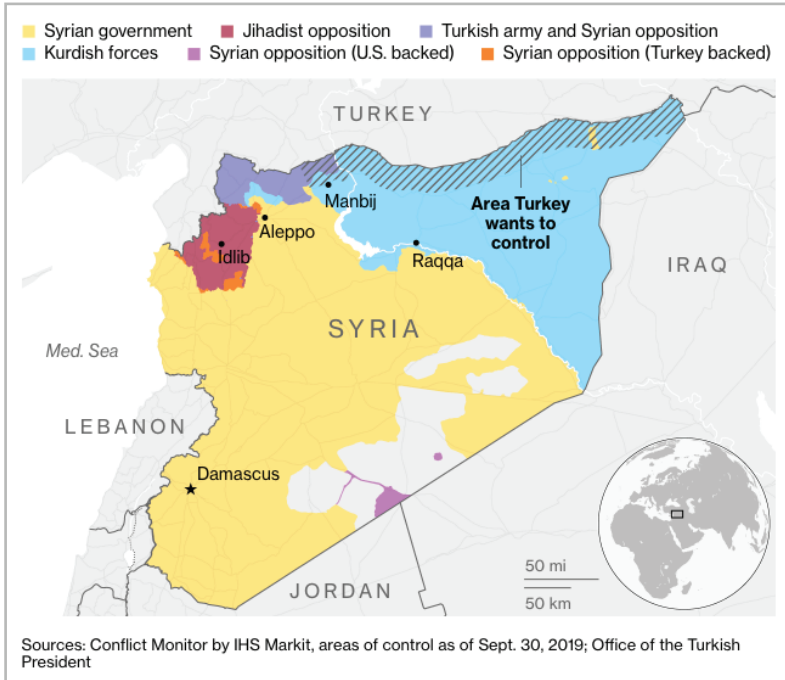
Learn more about Rojava’s struggle for freedom, equality and an ecological future at www.defendrojava.org where you can **donate** to our advocacy efforts or directly to Afrin’s refugees.

This informational sheet about the Rojava revolution was prepared by the Emergency Committee for Rojava. If you’d like to be part of our advocacy and education efforts, please contact us at info@defendrojava.org. We’re starting new chapters across the U.S. and we would appreciate your help getting out the word.

ROJAVA UNDER THREAT

Defend the Kurds and their allies in Northeastern Syria!

The revolution in Rojava was founded in 2012 on principles of women's liberation, environmental sustainability, and direct democracy. The Syrian Defense Forces (SDF) have been America's most significant ally in fighting ISIS, losing thousands of men and women in the process.



But on Sunday, Oct. 6, Donald Trump got on the phone with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and gave him a green light to invade Rojava. He said he would order US troops who were acting as a buffer to move out of the way and give control of ISIS prisoners over to Turkey.

This must not happen.

If Turkey invades Rojava, we'll see a repeat of the horror show in Afrin after the Turkish invasion of December '18, when hundreds of thousands fled and Kurds and their allies were replaced by refugees from other parts of Syria under the control of Turkish-supported jihadi armies.

This "ethnic cleansing" is a war crime. It cannot be allowed to happen again. Turkey plans to send the jihadi army Jaysh-al-Islam (Army of Islam), known for their brutality towards civilians in Ghouta to take over the part of Rojava once controlled by ISIS.

The idea of giving Turkey control of ISIS prisoners is mad! Turkey's material aid to ISIS is well-documented; rather than bring these prisoners to trial, Turkey is more likely to release them or even recruit them for further war on the Kurds. This will spell disaster for many years to come, and not just for the Middle East.

This must not happen!

The world's best fighters against ISIS must be defended! The feminist revolution in Rojava must be defended! Ecological sustainability and ethnic pluralism must be defended! We must not allow the thousands of SDF fighters who lost their lives to have died in vain! We must not allow their families be destroyed by the same jihadis they died fighting. In Iraq, the U.S. abandoned the Kurds to Saddam Hussein's violence and chemical warfare, not stepping in to help until the last moment. The U.S. must not abandon them again! ***Defend Rojava!***



Call your senators and representatives!

My name is _____ and I'm your constituent. I am calling to ask you to strongly oppose President Trump's decision to let Turkey invade northeastern Syria, which will result in genocidal attacks on the Kurds and their allies in Rojava. Erdogan has clearly announced he plans to deport the entire Kurdish population and hand their homes over to Syrian jihadis. This is exactly what he did in Afrin; it is a war crime and the US cannot be party to it.

I also ask you to strongly oppose handing control of ISIS prisoners over to Turkey. As the Pentagon and the SDF have documented, Turkey gave material aid too ISIS. ISIS prisoners should be put on trial; Turkey is more likely to release them to do even more damage to the world. At the very least the U.S. must commit to enforcing a no-fly zone to prevent Turkey from bombing the region and causing mass casualties.

Chuck Schumer: **212-486-4430**

Kirsten Gillibrand: **212-688-6262**

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